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society are especially invited to attend this meeting, Auditorium of Horace Mann School.

- 7:30 p. m. Dinner for all botanists, Hotel McAlpin. Address of Professor J. M. Coulter, retiring president of the Botanical Society of America, "Botany as a National Asset." Tickets may be obtained from the secretary, at \$2.50 each.

*Friday, December 29.*

- 10:00 a. m. Joint session with the Ecological Society of America, for papers on ecology, phytogeography, and related subjects, Brinckerhoff Theatre.
- 2:00 p. m. Joint session with the American Phytopathological Society, for papers on mycology, plant diseases, etc., Brinckerhoff Theatre.

Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Botanical Society of America, Dr. H. H. Bartlett, 335 Packard Street, Ann Arbor, Mich., whose address during the meetings will be Hotel McAlpin.

## NEWS ITEMS

It is reported in the daily papers that Governor N. E. Harris of Georgia has signed a bill to make the Cherokee rose the "official floral emblem of Georgia." This rose is *Rosa laevigata*, a native of China.

The complete collection of Mr. S. B. Parish, comprising about 50,000 specimens, has been purchased for the herbarium of Stanford University.

Professor C. R. Orton, of Pennsylvania State College, is on leave of absence for one year and has registered for graduate work at Columbia University. He will spend some time at the New York Botanical Garden in connection with his researches on parasitic fungi.

Amherst College has received a bequest of \$5,000 to be known as the Edward Tuckerman Fund, for work in botany.

Dr. Chas. H. Otis has resigned his position as instructor in botany and assistant-botanist at New Hampshire College and Experiment Station, to accept a position in the biological laboratory at Western Reserve University. Dr. Otis will have charge of the instruction in botany in Adelbert College and the College for Women, taking the place of Dr. Wm. H. Weston, who recently resigned.

Dr. Paul C. Graff has been appointed instructor in botany at the University of Montana.

Dr. William Gilman Thompson, professor of medicine in the Medical College of Cornell University, has resigned, and is succeeded by Dr. Lewis Atterbury Conner, professor of clinical medicine in the college since 1905. Dr. Thompson is president of the board of managers of the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. V. H. Young, formerly of the botany department of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the State University of Iowa. He takes charge of the work in plant physiology and mycology.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Alexander Mearns, U.S.A., died in Washington, D.C., on November 1, in his sixty-first year. He was one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the Roosevelt East African expedition. Dr. Mearns was an indefatigable collector of natural history specimens all his life, and was the author of many contributions to zoology and botany. He will be remembered by the older members of the club as a large collector of native plants in the region of West Point, many of his specimens serving as records of the occurrence of certain species in the Highlands of the Hudson. Most of the collection from this region is at the New York Botanical Garden.

The entire collection of the late C. B. Robinson, from Amboina, approximating 1,500 numbers, made between July 15 and December 3, 1913, was divided into two series, first "Robinson: *Plantae Rumphianae Amboinenses*" to include those specimens

that can definitely be referred to species described or figured by Rumphius, and second "Reliquiae Robinsonianae" to include those species that Rumphius did not describe. The final report has been written up in two parts, one "Reliquiae Robinsonianae" a critical enumeration of the species not described by Rumphius, and the second which has been tentatively called "An interpretation of Rumphius's Herbarium Amboinense." In this part the attempt has been made to account for every species figured, or described by Rumphius, the whole being arranged in accordance with the Engler & Prantl sequence. Under each has been given a critical historical resume of the previous attempts to reduce the Rumphian species, citing the necessary synonyms to explain each case. Wherever the Rumphian species is represented in the Robinson collection, the specimen is cited; the duplicates will be distributed under special labels giving both the accepted binomial name in modern system of classification, and the Rumphian name and reference to the volume page, and plate of the Herbarium Amboinense. To make the work more generally useful there has also been added a list of the species under the Rumphian names, serially arranged as originally published, with their modern equivalents so far as these have been determined. It will perhaps be worthy of note that in the course of the work it has been found that nearly 500 species have been based by various authors wholly on the Rumphian figures or descriptions; these must be interpreted primarily from Rumphius, as no types are extant. The whole work, with the exception of a very few groups, and with the exception of the general introduction, is now ready for the printer. Since Dr. Robinson's death the work has been carried on by Dr. E. D. Merrill who also writes.

"How unfortunate it is that Dr. Robinson could not have lived to complete his field work, for the plan was for him to remain in Amboina until the latter part of May or early part of June, 1914; he was killed early in December, 1913, after four and a half months' field work, in place of a year's field work. Had he remained until June, 1914; or I should say had he lived until then, I am sure that he would have secured the necessary material to clear up nearly all of the "puzzles" as to the identity of the

species based on Rumphius. As it is, his material has enabled me to clear up a very large number of these 'doubtful' species."

Mr. George Gordon Copp, formerly a reporter on the *Sun*, who went with Dr. D. T. MacDougal to deserts in southwestern United States, died in New York on November 20.

The Botanical Society of Washington has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: PRESIDENT, Mr. T. H. Kearney; VICE-PRESIDENT, Mr. Edgar L. Brown; RECORDING SECRETARY, Mr. Charles E. Chambliss; CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, Dr. H. L. Shantz; TREASURER, Mr. F. D. Farrell. Mr. A. S. Hitchcock was nominated by the society for the position of vice-president of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

It is reported in *Science* (24 November) that Stanford University, with the co-operation of Dr. N. L. Britton, has arranged to finance the publication of an Illustrated Flora of the Pacific Coast. Dr. LeRoy Abrams will edit the work, with the assistance of a number of the leading American botanists as collaborators. The flora will comprise four volumes containing illustrations and descriptions of all the ferns and flowering plants on the Pacific Coast.